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 - moon roof - loaded



**'99 MALIBU LS** - like new - only 17K miles  
 - one owner - local trade



**'02 CHEVROLET LT** - 4x4 - loaded  
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**'03 CHEVROLET LWB** - reg cab - AT-8  
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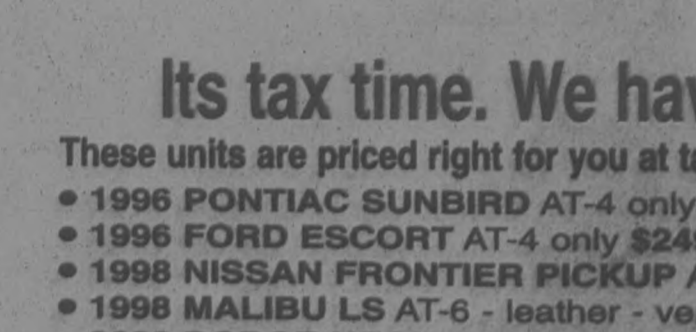
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 - sun roof - one owner

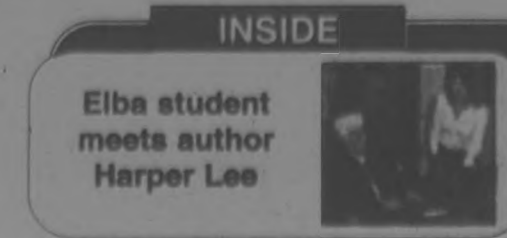
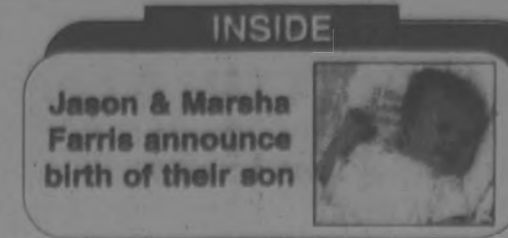
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# The Elba Clipper

Volume 107, Number 35

50 Cents

Elba, Alabama

Thursday, February 12, 2004

1 Section, 14 Pages Plus 1 Adv. Insert

During Coffee County BOE meeting

## Grandparent/concerned citizen addresses officials regarding racism within system

by Linda Hodge, Editor

The Coffee County Board of Education held its regular monthly meeting Thursday evening, Feb. 5, and the concerned questions of racism concerned the attention of the board and audience.

Alma Haynes, a grandparent and concerned citizen, appeared before the board to express her concern that racism is still a problem within the Coffee County School System.

Although the majority of her comments revolved around various incidents at the Zion Chapel School, Haynes nor any board member cited specific information due to the privacy laws.

Haynes said she had seen more negative changes than positive ones over the past 30 years.

"Why are we still having racial problems," she asked. "When people are on the school campus, don't they have to follow certain rules and regulations?"

Haynes said she is aware of numerous incidents where the African-American students at Zion Chapel have been offended and threatened with "racial slurs."

"This is February 2004, and we're still having the same problems we had in 1965 in the Coffee County School System," she said. "The African-American

students are being threatened up there (Zion Chapel), and these children are afraid to go to school."

She said the students also are afraid to go to the office to report incidents because of fear of retaliation from the Caucasian students.

"These African-American students should not be afraid to go to school,"

Haynes said. "We've (concerned parents, etc.) talked to Dr. Ingram, Mr. Barnes and others over the past few weeks, and they said

"This board will not tolerate racism or discrimination of any kind," said Charles Walker, chairman of the Coffee County Board of Education.

actions have been taken to correct the problem."

In the meantime, she said many parents of African-American students have removed their children from the Zion Chapel School and placed them in the schools at Arton or Pike County because of the continuing racial problems.

Haynes said these parents move their children with reservations while others choose to keep their children at Zion Chapel because "they (parents) feel with it being a primarily Caucasian school, they (the students) are getting a better education."

However, she said the students have said they can not take the stress anymore, and they can not deal with being called names any longer.

Haynes also said the African-American students do not receive the same breaks as Caucasian students in regards to punishment for breaking the rules and regulations. She said she has known of African-American students being expelled for minor things such as holding a comb (considered a weapon) or not taking off a cap while others are getting away with threatening lives.

Haynes also mentioned New Brockton High School as she expressed concern that African-American students are not offered the same opportunities as Caucasian students.

She said it seems to be a trend to place African-American and other minority students in special education simply because they are failing one subject. On a personal note, she said she kept this from happening to her own grandson.

"I gave New Brockton High School a list of scholarships for minorities," Haynes said. "I

Please See BOE, Page 12.

## Commission hears news of senior assistance prescription drug program

by Linda Hodge, Editor

During its regular bimonthly meeting, the Coffee County Commission entertained a request Monday, Feb. 9, to assist in locating seniors in need of help with costs of prescription drugs.

Enterprise Mayor Kenneth Boswell, representing SARCOA (Southern Alabama Regional Council On Aging),

and Judy Crowley, director of the Coffee County Family Services Center, addressed commissioners and introduced a new local senior drug program.

Boswell said SARCOA has had the senior drug program in place for quite some time, but a \$17,000 grant recently secured through the E.L. Gibson Foundation will make the program available locally through the Family Services Center, located at the Coffee County Health Department.

Boswell said this will be more convenient for the seniors of Coffee County in that they can come to the Coffee County

Health Department to apply for the program rather than having to go to the SARCOA office in Dothan.

Crowley said her department is very excited about the Senior Assistance Prescription Drug Program, but they need the help of commissioners in finding those seniors who might not receive the information otherwise.

She said the local program will only serve Coffee County residents, and those who qualify will have their medicine paid for by pharmaceutical companies.

To apply for the program, Crowley said a senior must meet

requirements including: • being at least 60-years-old; • have no prescription drug coverage; • have a chronic medical condition; • be a legal resident of Coffee County; • have an annual household income less than \$17,960 for one person or \$24,240 for two people.

"We're trying to make it as simple as possible for all involved," Crowley said.

She said the program has already begun, and Barbara Turner will be handling it for the Coffee County office.

Please See CCC, Page 12.

During Elba City Council meeting

## Alcohol license applicant withdraws license request

by Ferrin Cox, Publisher

The Elba City Council recessed a regular meeting Monday night to hold a public hearing on the request of Olde South Inn for a "Special Retail Liquor License." Council members were told at the onset that no final decision could be made at this meeting because the state-required background checks on the principals had not been completed.

City Clerk Wayne Grantham said he had talked with the state office doing the checks and was told they were short staffed and had a backlog of work.

Items questioned during the hearing included the need for a sworn, notarized affidavit that all property owners residents,

(etc.) within 500 feet had been properly notified of the hearing; ample parking as required by the city ordinance; proper zoning; and required distance from any church facility.

Council members were told that the Baptist Church Youth House was only 338 feet and nine inches from the Inn.

Harrison acknowledged he hadn't talked to anyone at the Baptist Youth House as there was never anyone there when he went by during the day, and he didn't consider it a residence nor a church in the context of the ordinance.

After a lengthy discussion between the council members, city attorney and the principals of Olde South Inn, Harrison and Dorothy Vaughan, the council

returned to its formal session and was about to table the matter until the paperwork was completed when they were told the requesters wished to withdraw their application.

Elba Mayor James Grimes asked if they were sure this was what they wanted to do and was told this was their wishes and the request was granted.

Elba Police Chief R. W. Whitworth told council members that the Town of Kinston had presented members of the Drug Task Force, from both the Elba Police Department and Coffee County Sheriff's Department, nice citations for their efforts to stop the illegal

Please See CITY, Page 12.

## Gayle F. Oberst Trailhead dedicated in Panama City Beach

The Beaches Chamber and the City of Panama City Beach held a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Oct. 23, 2003, to officially open the Gayle F. Oberst Trailhead at Frank Brown Park.

Also, the City of Panama City Beach recently was selected as a recipient of the Florida Bicycle Association's Bicycle Friendly

children's fish pond and a paved trail joining others around Frank Brown Park.

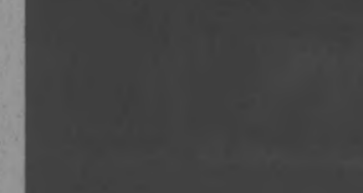
Also, the City of Panama City Beach recently was selected as a recipient of the Florida Bicycle Association's Bicycle Friendly

Community Award; Councilwoman Oberst was recognized as one of the chief supporters of the project.

She is the daughter of Mrs. Doris and the late Alvis Farmer, of Elba.

Gayle F. Oberst  
 Trailhead

Gayle's Trail



The trailhead and surrounding trails, located in Panama City Beach, Fla. were named in honor of Gayle Oberst who is the daughter of Doris and the late Alvis Farmer of Elba.

## Elba citizens encouraged to attend Town Hall meeting

by Linda Hodge, Editor

Anywhere and everywhere one looks in Elba these days a sign of change and improvement can be found.

Just to name a few, there's the levee rehabilitation project, the four-laning of U.S. Highway 84, the construction of a new diagnostic lab, a new industry coming to town and others announcing expansion. Now, there's one more thing to be added to the list.

Through the Downtown Revitalization Authority (DRA), the City of Elba recently was awarded a planning grant for its downtown revitalization project.

According to Kaye Whitworth, executive director of

the Elba Chamber of Commerce, DRA members have been working with a grant writer who led the group to Cheryl Morgan, a representative of Auburn University who also assisted the Town of Headland with its downtown revitalization project.

Whitworth said Morgan, recently met with DRA members to get an idea of what the people of Elba want accomplished with the downtown revitalization project. At this meeting, she suggested having a Town Hall meeting to allow all citizens an opportunity to express their ideas and opinions for the future of downtown Elba.

"This is a big opportunity for us to make a difference in our downtown area," Whitworth

said. "I believe it's the best opportunity we've ever had."

The Town Hall meeting has been set for Thursday evening, Feb. 19, at 7 p.m. at the Elba High School auditorium, and all interested citizens of Elba, young or old, are encouraged to attend and be heard.

Whitworth said Morgan will be conducting her study for Elba's downtown revitalization project over the next few months, and she is very interested in receiving input from the citizens.

"She wants to create a plan based on what the people of Elba would like to see the downtown area look like," Whitworth said. "She wants to see some things involved with the project could take years to finish, but we have to start somewhere by creating a plan and having it in place."

Once Morgan completes her study, Whitworth said it will be up to the city to go after grants, etc. to fund the revitalization project.

During the upcoming town hall meeting, Whitworth said Morgan will be offering suggestions and touching on different aspects of the downtown project, but she is most interested in receiving feedback from those who will enjoy the revitalization of downtown Elba most. Its citizens.

"We really want people to come out to this meeting," Whitworth said. "The whole idea behind the project is getting what we eventually want; therefore, we need to hear from all interested citizens in order to make the best decisions for the revitalization of downtown Elba."

## Area Happenings

**THE 2004 "VALENTINE SWEETHEART PAGEANT"** will be held Saturday, Feb. 14, at 6 p.m. at the Elba High School auditorium. Age divisions will include 0-11 months, 1-2 years, 3-5 years, 6-9 years, 9-11 years, 12-14 years and 15-18 years. The Elba Masonic Lodge #170 is sponsoring the pageant.

**THE TOWN OF NEW BROCKTON OFFICES** will be closed Monday, Feb. 16, in observance of the President's Day holiday. For emergencies, call the New Brockton Police Department at 894-5529.

**THE USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICE** in Ozark will be closed Wednesday and Thursday, Feb. 18 and 19. It will reopen Friday, Feb. 20, at 9 a.m.

**THE TREASURE FOREST ASSOCIATION** will conduct a Hardwood Seedling Giveaway Saturday, Feb. 21, at the offices of Time Limited Forestry of Elba beginning at 9 a.m. Time Limited Forestry is located at 2045 County Road 364 (1/2 mile on right past Coffee County Lake). A huge variety of hardwood tree seedlings will be given away. For more information, call Ted Vignola at 897-5948 or Mike Bailey at 735-5468.

## EDITORIAL

FROM THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

BRAINSTORMS  
with Ferrin Cox

All the experts, both within the government and in the business world, strongly recommend citizens guard their personal identification information to help keep it away from the con artists. Coffee County citizens, and we assume all in Alabama, are reporting they are getting post cards notifying them if they have been moved to a new county voting district. . . . the post card is complete with social security numbers, address, birthday, etc! This post card and the related personal information can be easily read and recorded by anyone who looks at the card. Now that is real security! It is kind of like worrying about a dripping water faucet when a broken water main down the street is gushing water ten feet into the air.

A New York law firm has started sending us regular "news releases" defending Martha Stewart, the woman now being tried on federal charges dealing with insider information in a stock market deal. This week they compared her problems with those of entertainer Justin Timberlake, the guy who made secondary headlines (behind Justin Jackson) at halftime of the 2004 Super Bowl. Justin could very well be charged under Title 18, Section 1001, as Martha Stewart, for lying to federal authorities," the e-mail read. The New York lawyers may be right, but what is the point! If she is guilty of lying to federal authorities, she is guilty regardless of how many other folks do the same thing.

Speaking of Justin Jackson, we missed the Super Bowl halftime show, but had plenty of news reports to get everyone up to speed and as late as Monday night of this week, continually replaying the scene. Regardless of a person's opinion of that issue, it has got to be laughable (or maybe disgusting) to sit and watch the rehashing of the whole matter. We often watch one or another of the four news channels on the cable. For a couple of days after the event that was the headlines on each of them. In fact as the reporters debated about how terrible it was, the scene kept flashing across the screen. Actually as the incident climaxed and the video reached the point where Timberlake ripped her costume, the news channels usually used their freeze frame button to ensure everyone watching knew what was being discussed and/or cursed (and there was no blurring of any part of the film). Now we are wondering why hating of a woman's breast is so bad on a network broadcast yet is proper fodder for repeated stop framing on multiple cable news programs? Our simple mind thinks all the rules should be applied across the board and to all broadcasters, regardless of any efforts to be above the law.

The national news media have been obsessed with the candidates for president in recent months; however on a local level there are a lot more voting decisions to be made. Recently both U. S. Senator Richard Shelby and U. S. Representative Terry Everett have announced their plans to seek re-election. Shelby's seat is for a six-year term and Everett must face the voters every two years. Neither appears to have any shortfall of campaign funds. In fact Senator Shelby is leading the pack nationwide with his awesome campaign war chest. These things build up over the years as the leftover from the last campaign is joined by more and more donations from supporters and special interest groups *thank you* (or please help).

## Elba Police Report

The Elba Police Department, beginning Monday, Feb. 2, 2004, investigated the following incidents: three for assault, three for criminal mischief, one for breaking and entering of a motor vehicle, three for theft of property, two for domestic violence, two for harassment, one for burglary, two for harassing communications, one for counterfeiting money and one for criminal possession of a forged instrument. The following arrests were made: one for menacing, one for harassment, two for failure to appear, one for possession of drug paraphernalia, one for possession of marijuana and one for domestic violence.

Traffic citations issued during the week were as follows: three for no insurance, one for driving with a suspended driver's license, one for not wearing a seat belt and one for speeding.

Daily activity highlights for the week were as follows:  
**MONDAY, FEB. 2** - River stage - 7.89 feet (6:11 a.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to 1437 County Rd. 415 (6:55 a.m.).

**TUESDAY, FEB. 3** - River stage - 7.41 feet (6:07 a.m.); Elba Fire Department dispatched to a woods fire off of Hwy. 289 N. (1:48 p.m.).

**WEDNESDAY, FEB. 4** - River stage - 7.04 feet (6:09 a.m.); Burglary reported at 3020 Hickman Ave. (5:14 p.m.).

## The Elba Clipper

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Congressman Terry Everett  
2312 Rayburn House  
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By now, most of us have seen the national TV reports about how former weapons inspector Dr. David Kay found no stock-

piles of weapons of mass destruction while he was in Iraq. What you've read and heard is only part of the story, however. This week, we'll look at the more complicated picture our inspectors have encountered on the ground.

Though no chemical or nuclear bombs have yet been found in Iraq, the truth is that the U.S.-led search team has undeniable evidence that Saddam Hussein's regime maintained an ambitious WMD program. According to Dr. Kay's recent testimony, his most important finding was that Iraq, which "was in clear and material violation of 1441"-the United Nations Security Council resolution that gave Baghdad one last chance to admit its weapons program-maintained activities "that would allow them to restart the program as soon as they got rid of us."

Saddam Hussein's weapons makers designed his secret WMD program to allow future production at some time. Iraq maintained research sites, documents, equipment and, most importantly, a cadre of experienced weapons scientists that could reestablish and run production lines once the U.N. imposed sanctions. Dr. Kay reckons Iraq stockpiled these soft assets instead because international inspectors are "not particularly good at unmasking" such ambiguous and small-scale

National Security  
declares quarterly  
dividend of 21 cents

The Board of Directors of The National Security Group, Inc., declared a quarterly dividend of \$.21 per share at its meeting on January 17, 2004. This represents an annual indicated dividend rate of \$.84 per share. This cash dividend is payable on February 27, 2004 to shareholders of record February 2, 2004.

**FRIDAY, FEB. 6** - River stage - 6.79 feet (6:44 a.m.); Wreck reported on Simmons St. (2:57 p.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to 53 County Rd. 342 (5:09 p.m.).

**SATURDAY, FEB. 7** - One-vehicle wreck reported at 26284 Hwy. 87 (6:12 a.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to the wreck at 26284 Hwy. 87 (6:14 a.m.); River stage - 11.34 feet (6:40 a.m.); Disturbance reported at 560 King Circle (8:57 a.m.); Report of shots fired on Parker St. (2:52 p.m.); Domestic disturbance reported at 1415 Reese Ave. (5:21 p.m.); Disturbance reported at 1591 Caroline St. (8:58 p.m.); Disturbance reported at 1591 Caroline St. (10:49 p.m.).

**SUNDAY, FEB. 8** - Disturbance reported at 885 Cedar Lane Dr. (12:20 p.m.); Disturbance reported on Cedar Lane Dr. (2:13 p.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to 1097 County Rd. 201 (6:44 p.m.).

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## BULLETIN BOARD

• ABUSING CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES THROUGH CHRIST A.R.M.S. addiction recovery, ministry services. Thurs. 7 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Baptist Church. Call 565-9979 or visit the website: www.abusingchrist.com

• SOCIAL SECURITY REP. Courthouse 4th Tues. 12:30-1:30. Call FRIDAY 1-800-772-1213

• ROTARY CLUB Tuesday or Non-First First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall

• ELBA CITY COUNCIL - 2nd and 4th Monday 6 p.m. - City Hall

• WATER & ELECTRIC - Tuesday following 2nd Monday 6 p.m. - City Hall

• ELBA MINISTERIAL ASSN. Tues. - 8 a.m. Elba United Methodist Church - Fellowship Hall

• GRIFF SUPPORT GROUP - every Monday 6:30 p.m. - Elba United Methodist Church - center on side on W. Davis St. - Maggie Garrett Classroom.

• COFFEE COUNTY COMMISSION - 2nd and 4th Monday Community Room in Farm Center Complex @ New Brockton

• LIONS CLUB - 2nd and 4th Tues. 6:30 p.m. - Senior Citizen Center

• ELBA CITY SCHOOL BOARD - 1st Thurs. - 5:30 p.m. - Supp. Office

• AMERICAN LEGION - 1st Tuesday of every month 7:00 p.m. Legion Hall, Troy Hwy.

• MASONIC LODGE 178 - 1st and 3rd Monday of each month 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. Band Room @ Elba High School

• BAND BOOSTERS - 1st Mon. - 7 p.m. Band Room @ Elba High School

• VETERANS SERVICE - 1st Mon. - 7 p.m. 12 noon & 12:30 - 4:30 New Brockton @ Farm Center Complex 894-5858

• COFFEE COUNTY COON HUNTERS ASSN. - 3rd Sat. - 3 p.m. - Club House

• COFFEE COUNTY WOMEN - 3rd Wed. Noon - Colony Inn, Enterprise

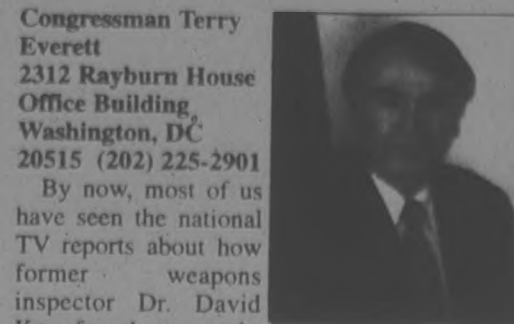
• ELBA AIRPORT AUTHORITY - 2nd Thursday at noon, Driscoll Hanger at the Airport

• AARP meets every 3rd Tuesday night of the month

• ELBA ATHLETIC CLUB - 1st & 3rd Monday - 7 p.m. - Elba High boys locker room

• NEW SEASONS STUDY CLUB - Every 3rd Tuesday at 7 p.m.

The above meetings are subject to change without notice. Please call the Elba Clipper for more information.



Rep. Terry Everett

resources. Once Iraq regained a delivery capability - for example, through its "very large unnamed aerial vehicle program" - providing the weapon agents would be "a relatively short order."

Dr. Kay's group found evidence that Iraq intended to restart its chemical and biological weapons program. Included among hundreds of pieces of evidence are a prison laboratory complex possibly used in human testing of biological weapon agents - that regime officials were explicitly ordered not to declare to the U.N. and strains used to produce biological warfare agents. In fact, Iraqi scientists had "moved ahead their anthrax capability," and had conducted unsanctioned work on weapons-applicable agents, such as ricin and Congo Crimian Hemorrhagic Fever, a rare and deadly virus that causes internal bleeding.

Dr. Kay also testified that after 2000 Iraq began the process of reconstituting its nuclear weapons program, renovating a research center at Al Tuwaitha, building new buildings, hiring more staff, and running physics experiments. "Fortunately," the chief inspector said, "Operation Iraqi Freedom" intervened and we don't know how or how fast the emerging program would have gone ahead."

More proof of an ongoing WMD program might have been transported to Syria, now home to hundreds of Saddam Hussein's relatives and former henchmen. Dr. Kay told the London Telegraph that former Iraqi officials admitted that "a lot of material went to Syria before the war, including some components of Saddam's WMD program," assertions supported

by intelligence showing containers were moved across the border. It is noteworthy that the 8,500 liters of anthrax the U.N. said Iraq had could fit into the kind of trailer you pull with your sport utility vehicle, and that Iraq shares a 375-mile border with its western neighbor.

It will take some time for investigators to get the full picture of the final status of Saddam's weapons of mass

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Shower - 1/25/04 Wedding 2/14/04

**Dallas**  
BFA:33  
Performing classical, dixieland, swing, Broadway, folk, and patriotic music.

February 20, 2004  
Enterprise High School  
7:30 pm

Sawyer Surgery Clinic  
Linda C. Sawyer, M.D.  
Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery

**TICKETS**  
\$10.00 - \$20.00  
\$25.00 - \$35.00  
\$40.00 - \$50.00  
\$60.00 - \$75.00  
\$80.00 - \$100.00  
\$120.00 - \$150.00  
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\$9,950.00 - \$10,000.00

The performance is made possible in part by a grant from  
The Alabama State Council On The Arts

## KIDS UNLIMITED

979 Hwy. 203 - Elba  
(334) 897-8928

**Opening...**

**HUGE SELECTION of Ladies Jewelry**

Friday, February 13th  
at 11:00 a.m.  
Ribbon Cutting @ 10:00 a.m. • Join Us!

**\*We have Boys & Girls\*  
ALL SIZES AVAILABLE  
\*Famous Brands \*Low Prices**

**Tuxedo Rentals Available!**

**\*Stop in for FREE Brochures\*  
Layaway NOW for Prom!**

See Dinah about Discounts on Wedding Parties 6 and Over!

## Obituaries

College seeking  
Southern Artist  
for annual show

## ANNE ELAINE CARTER WILLIAMS

Ms. Anne Elaine Carter Williams, age 69, of Uniontown, Ala., died Jan. 13, 2004, at her residence.

Services were held Jan. 17, 2004 in the Kirk Funeral Homes Chapel with Ronald Palmer officiating. Interment was held at Pine Crest Memorial Gardens.

Survivors include four sons: Walter Williams Jr., San Antonio, Texas; William "Bill" Williams, Marion; James R. "Willie" Williams, Uniontown; Donald "Donnie" Williams, Madison, Ala.; three daughters: Mary Susan Leger, Niceville, Fla.; Carol Lynn Laney, Elba; Anne Marie Brody, Bahrain; four brothers: Karl Carter, Delane, Fla.; James Carter, Amarillo, Texas; Richard Carter, Summerville, S.C.; William Carter, Matthews, N.C.; one sister: Shirley Carter Koon, Bolivia, N.C.; 14 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Pallbearers were Walt Williams Jr., Scott Leger, Paul Williams, Brandon Williams, Jerome Williams and Don Williams.

## MARTHA VAUGHAN MEACHAM

Mrs. Martha Vaughan Meacham, age 68, of Elba, Ala., died Wednesday, Feb. 4, 2004 at Flowers Hospital in Dothan, Ala.

Funeral services were held Feb. 6, 2004 from the Chapel of Hayes Funeral Home in Elba with Rev. John I. Baxter officiating. Burial followed in Evergreen Cemetery of Elba with Hayes Funeral Home directing. Active pallbearers were Chuck Miller, Chet Miller, David Stokes and Max Boyzman.

Mrs. Meacham was preceded in death by a daughter, Teresa Lee Draughn.

Survivors include her husband, Joseph Franklin Meacham, Elba; three sons: Tommy Tatom, Elba; John Meacham, Dallas, Texas; and James Meacham, Millbrook, Ala.; one daughter: Nina Miller, Dallas, Texas; one sister: Carolyn Vaughan Stokes, Elba; one brother: Jack Vaughan, Elba; and two grandchildren.

The Meacham family requests contributions be made to Elba United Methodist Church.

## DAVID FRANK MILES

Mr. David Frank Miles, age 78, of Glenwood, Ala., died Feb. 3, 2004 at Southeast Alabama Medical Center, Dothan, Ala.

Funeral services were held Feb. 5, 2004 at Skeen Funeral Home in Troy, Ala., with Pastor Elbert Smith officiating. Burial followed in Henderson Memorial Cemetery with Skeen Funeral Home directing.

Survivors include his wife: Oler Lee Miles, Glenwood; three daughters and a son-in-law: Sheila Miles, Elba; Sharon and Huey Childs, Goshen, Ala.; Mary Jane McLeod, Troy; one sister: Lizzar Richardson, Elba; three grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Mrs. Mack was preceded in death by her husband, L.J. Mack, and a son, James Mack.

Survivors include two sons: Rickie R. (Sandra Joan) Mack, Enterprise, Ala.; Nickie (Vivian) Mack, Columbia, Mo.; four sisters: Jeanette Parker, Elba; Foye Johnson, Opp, Ala.; Myrtle Holland, Crestview, Fla.; Bessie

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## CHURCH & AREA NEWS

### Wednesday Night is Family Night at First Baptist Church of Elba

Every Wednesday night is "Family Night" at First Baptist Church of Elba. The weekly schedule is followed by a delicious Family Night Supper at 5:30 in the Fellowship Hall, and Wednesday, Praise & Worship (WPW) at 6:00. Wednesday Praise & Worship is a casual, contemporary worship experience for all ages. Praise choruses and special music set the theme for a timely and relevant devotion thought during this half hour of week worship time. The theme during February is "The Power of Love" and will include "Who

Heart 2 Heart Women's Ministry of First Baptist Church Enterprise to hold conference

The First Baptist Church of Enterprise will host a Heart 2 Heart Women's Ministry of First Baptist Church of Enterprise conference for you to attend on February 21, 2004. The conference for women and teen young ladies (10th grade and above). The day night and Saturday conference is titled "It's a Journey Out There." Marlene Koger, who has



Come join us at First Baptist-Elba for Family Night every Wednesday

Wednesday Praise & Worship (WPW) is a casual, contemporary praise experience for all ages. Praise choruses and special music set the theme for a timely and relevant devotion thought during this half hour mid-week worship time. Supper is provided beforehand to make it easier on your weeknight schedule. We call it Family Night, but it's not just for families, and we invite you to come be a part of our First Baptist family. For more information, call the church office at 897-2246, or just come join us this Wednesday night at 5:30 for supper and 6:00 for Wednesday Praise & Worship. We'll be looking for you!

#### Our Wednesday night schedule

4:30 Children's Choirs (age 4 - grade 6)  
5:30 Family Night Supper (\$2.50 adults, \$1.00 children)  
5:50 Mission Activities (RA's & GA's), Youth Choir, Adult Handbells, Adult Fellowship and Prayer Time  
6:30 Wednesday Praise & Worship (all ages together)  
7:00 Channel Choir Rehearsal, Youth Fellowship (at Youth House)

Phone 897-2246

**WPW Theme for February: The Power of Love**  
"Who Wrote the Book of Love?"  
"Come and Get Your Love" "Love is a Many Splendored Thing"

### ROUND & ABOUT WITH ERIA 897-2006

**SCRIPTURE: JOHN 8:1-18**  
\*\*\*THINKING OF YOU AND PRAYING FOR YOU. Rev. Henry Ewing, Jr., William Cooper, The Head, Turner and Germany families, Lovie Hooks, Johnnie Ruth Belcher, Bettye Burkes, Rev. Charles Lane, Rev. E. Magwood, Carolyn Lawrence, Ricardo Cook, Dorothy Daniels, Rev. Willis Branton, Marie Tillis, Lizzie Tyson, Juanita Brooks, Mary E. Holly, Lena Sims, Lavarn Rideaux, Lela Tyson, Mary A. Blue, Louise Jackson



Antwon Tillis

**BIRTHDAYS**  
Patricia Chatman-February 8, Kyson Edwards-February 9, Jeanette Hammonds-February 10, Quinten Gavin-February 10, Ella Brooks-February 10, Glorice Jones-February 10, Marcus Caldwell-February 11, James Henderson-February 11, Timothy Williams-February 12, Wiley Brooks-February 12, Tom & Linda Hooks-February 13 (W.A.), Earnest and Margaret Williams-February 14 (W.A.), Sharon Williams-February 14, Tina Hill-February 14.

**VALENTINE BANQUET** will be held at the Greater New Zion Missionary Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, February 14, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. The attire is semi-formal. Come and enjoy the fellowship.  
\*\*\*GREATER NEW ZION MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH of Elba will observe their annual Men and Women's Day on Wednesday, February 18, 2004 at 6:00 p.m. at the Indian Hills Church of God, Hwy. 82 West. There will be no admission charge but a love offering will be taken.

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**HISTORY PROGRAM** of the St. Mark Baptist Church, Glenwood, AL, is planned for Sunday, February 15, at 3:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to wear African attire.

**ANNOINTED FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT** to be in concert February 15, beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Southeast District Singing Convention Building, located on County Rd. 377, Elba.

Today is a good day! Be grateful.  
Eria

**Deadline For Church News Is Monday!**

Sammie Glass Family to be in concert at NBUMC February 15

The Sammie Glass Family from Decatur, TN will be in concert at the New Brockton United Methodist Church, February 15, 2004 at 6:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend.

**Cinde Lucas to be in concert at Shiloh Baptist Church**

Christian singer and songwriter, Cinde Lucas will be in concert at Shiloh Baptist Church in Elba on February 21, 2004 at 7 p.m.

**Huntingdon announces area students on Fall Dean's List honors**

At the end of each semester, the Huntingdon College Office of Academic Affairs issues two lists of students who have achieved academic distinction. To be eligible for inclusion on the Dean's List of Honors or the Dean's List of High Honors, a student must have received letter grade evaluations on at least 12 hours during the term, and must have completed all course work for the term. An "incomplete" grade on a student's grade report precludes the student's inclusion on the Dean's List. The Dean's List of High Honors recognizes those who have achieved semester averages of 3.80 to 4.00. The Dean's List of Honors recognizes those who have achieved semester averages of 3.60 to 3.79. The following lists of students are presented in zip code order, and include each student's full name, hometown, state, zip code, majors, and parents' names, if available.

Huntingdon College Dean's List of Honors, Fall, 2003  
(Fall semester grade point average of 3.60-3.79): Sanders, Laura Andrea, New Brockton, AL 36551; Human Performance and Kinesiology, parents are Royas Sanders/Jeanie Hiers

Dean's List of High Honors, Fall, 2003  
(Fall semester grade point average of 3.80-4.0): Mallory, Leanne, Elba, AL 36523; Drama, History, parents are Fred and Sandra Mallory

### Grantham-Anderson united in marriage January 3, 2004



Mr. & Mrs. Channin Grantham

**Republican Women of Coffee County to meet**

Republican Women of Coffee County will be meeting at Po Folks Restaurant, 650 Bellwood Circle on Wednesday, February 18th, at 11:30 AM for their luncheon meeting. Congressman Terry Everett, and candidate for Coffee County District Judge, Paul Sherrill will be the guest speakers.

The menu will be Grilled Chicken Breast Salad with Bread Sticks and Drink for \$7.00 inclusive. The public is invited. For reservations call Fay McCray at 393-0471.

**NEW ARRIVAL**  
Christopher Dakeri Avant Sealey

Terah Sealey of Elba announces the birth of her son, Christopher Dakeri Avant Sealey.

He was born Nov. 13, 2003, at Mizell Memorial Hospital in Opp. He weighed 7 pounds 6.6 ounces and was 20 inches long. Maternal grandmother is Mary Alice Burnett of Brantley.

**Bradley's Florist & Gift Bridal Registry**  
Brandie Mann & Charlie Diggers  
Offering:  
• Crystal stemware  
• China • Flatware  
897-3422

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897-2981

### Grantham-Anderson united in marriage January 3, 2004

Candace May Anderson and Channin Grantham were united in marriage on Saturday, January 3, 2004 at the First Baptist of Elba, with Rev. Mark Griffin officiating the ceremony.

The bride was escorted by her father, Guy Anderson Jr. and given in marriage by her mother and stepfather, Kimberly and Charles Steven Petty.

Ashley Harelson served as maid of honor. Bridesmaids were Heather Hays, and Chelsea Cooper of Elba, Tanya Newhall of Inverness, FL and Brooke Grantham of Dothan. Junior bridesmaids were her sisters, Morgan Anderson, Megan Anderson and Anna Petty. The flower girls were her nieces, Sadie Grantham of Zion Chapel and Allie Grantham of Dothan.

Serving as best man was the groom's brother, Brad Grantham of Dothan. Groomsman and ushers were Bob Addison, Wesley Clark, Alan Sanders and John Sanders of Zion Chapel, Guy Anderson III, Ross Adkinson and Brandon Petty of Elba.

Tyler Anderson, brother of the bride, was the handbell ringer and the ring bearer was Taylor Flowers, both are of Elba.

Ashley Gibson attended the bridal registry. Organ music was provided by Kathy Windham of New Brockton and soloist was Rhonda Hughes of Zion Chapel. Overseeing the sound system and music was Ronald Morrow of Elba.

The wedding was directed by Kathy Mobley.

Following the ceremony a reception was held in the conference center at Nazareth Security. After a ski trip to Maggie Valley, TN for the honeymoon, the couple resides in Zion Chapel.

Maternal great grandparents are Jimmy and Joyce Lashley of Ino and Guy and Sue Johnson of Enterprise. Paternal great-grandparents are Eleanor Price of Elba and Ray Price of New Brockton.

Mother and daughter are home doing fine.

**NEW ARRIVAL**  
LYDIA ANNE MCCONNELL



Lydia Anne McConnell

Christopher and Amy McConnell announce the birth of their daughter, Lydia Anne, on December 4, 2003, at Baptist Medical Center South in Montgomery, Alabama. Lydia weighed 8 pounds, 2 ounces and was 21 inches long.

Maternal grandparents are Ronald and Ramona Ross of Elba, Alabama. Paternal grandparents are Christine Ross, Brantley, Alabama and Gladys Chandler, Opp, Alabama.

**Let us order your rubber stamp!**  
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### NEW ARRIVAL

WILLIAM PRESTON FARRIS

Jason and Marsha Farris of Elba announce the birth of their son, William Preston Farris, on November 25, 2003. Preston weighed 7 lbs. 15 ozs. and was 20 1/4 inches long.

Grandparents are Jimmy and Faye Tillis of Elba and Dawson and Frankie Farris of Elba.

Great grandparents are Ivey Grantham, Elba; Doris Tillis, Tarpon Springs, FL; Jessie L. Donaldson, Elba; and Ollie B. Farris, Elba.



William Preston Farris

**Braxton Robinson is two years old**

Braxton Robinson turned five years old on January 14, 2004. Braxton celebrated his birthday with a party at The Young World of Learning with all his friends. The theme of the party was Spiderman.

Braxton is the son of Bill and Ronda Robinson of Elba. Grandparents are Ben and Peggy Carpenter of Elba and Bill and Odessa Robinson of Elba.

Two thousand and four from two o'clock until half past three in the afternoon.

The celebration will be held at Moseley's Studio

401 East Davis Street Elba, Alabama

D Ann, Joe, Hannah and Judson Meherg

No gifts please

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**TAKE AN EXTRA**

**25% OFF**  
ALL FALL & WINTER CLEARANCE MERCHANDISE

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# Church Directory

<p><b>IN HIM IS THE LIFE AND THE LIFE WAS THE LIGHT OF MEN</b></p> <p><b>ALBERTON BAPTIST CHURCH</b> Pastor Rev. Lloyd Hodge Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Morn. Worship 11:00 a.m. Even. Service 6:00 p.m. Wed. Night Service 7:00 p.m. Wed. Prayer Meeting 7:00 p.m.</p> <p><b>BASIN BAPTIST CHURCH</b> Pastor Rev. Lloyd Hodge Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Morn. Worship 11:00 a.m. Even. Service 6:00 p.m. Wed. Night Service 7:00 p.m. Wed. Prayer Meeting 7:00 p.m.</p> <p><b>BETH ELBA BAPTIST CHURCH</b> Pastor Rev. Lloyd Hodge Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Morn. Worship 11:00 a.m. Even. Service 6:00 p.m. Wed. Night Service 7:00 p.m. Wed. Prayer Meeting 7:00 p.m.</p> <p><b>BETH ELBA BAPTIST CHURCH</b> Pastor Rev. Lloyd Hodge Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Morn. Worship 11:00 a.m. Even. Service 6:00 p.m. Wed. Night Service 7:00 p.m. Wed. Prayer Meeting 7:00 p.m.</p> <p><b>BETH ELBA BAPTIST CHURCH</b> Pastor Rev. Lloyd Hodge Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Morn. Worship 11:00 a.m. Even. Service 6:00 p.m. Wed. 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# SCHOOLS

## Co-Op Spotlight

by Anna Harrison



Kevin Hays is a junior at EHS and he has been chosen as this week's Co-Op Spotlight.

He is the 17-year-old son of Kevin and Ruth Hays and has two siblings: Heather and Dylan Hays.

Kevin is a student council representative, member of VICA, Senior Beta and he works for Windham Lumber Company.

He enjoys hanging out with friends and going to the beach in his spare time.

Kevin plans to attend Troy State University after graduation and major in business.



PICTURE OF THE WEEK...Seniors has definitely set in!!

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## Tiger Tales

Editors:  
Brittany Cooper  
& Christy Eubanks

## EHS Student Spotlight

by Mary Katherine Head

This week's Elba High School student spotlight focuses on Brian Blair.

Brian is the 14-year-old son of Dean and Melanee Blair and is a freshman here at EHS.

While at school Brian enjoys learning about history and is involved in numerous clubs and activities such as Junior Beta Club, Chi Alpha Mu - vice-president and the symphonic and jazz bands where he plays the baritone saxophone.

During his spare time, Brian enjoys hunting, fishing, mud riding and spending time with friends and family.

After graduating from high school, Brian plans on attending the University of Alabama and major in business.



Brian Blair

where he will pursue a degree in Criminal Justice.

Congratulations to Brian Blair for being chosen as this week's student spotlight!

## Elba High welcomes new intern

by Christy Eubanks

There is a new face at Elba High School. The face is that of Mr. Obed Ellis.

Mr. Ellis comes to Elba High School from Troy State University where he majors in social science education.

Mr. Ellis spends the first two blocks of the school day with Mrs. Lyna Weeks' government/economics, and psychology classes. Then, he spends third and fourth block with Coach Wynn Grimes' world history classes.

When asked what he likes



Obed Ellis

most about EHS, he replied, "I'd have to say the late back atmosphere and the students' willingness to learn."

After graduating from Troy State, Mr. Ellis plans to pursue a career as a teacher.

Welcome to Elba High School, Mr. Ellis, and good luck in the future.

## Upcoming Dates:

by Christy Eubanks

**Feb. 13** - Teacher In-Service. No school for students.

**Feb. 16** - Holiday

**March 2** - Read Across America Celebration

**March 4** - Black and Gold Show

**March 5** - Third Nine Weeks Break

**March 15** - Grandparent's Day

**March 15** - PTO at 6 p.m.

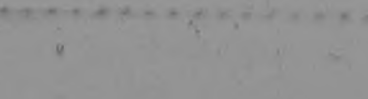
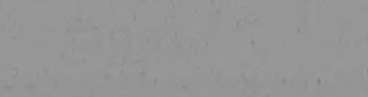
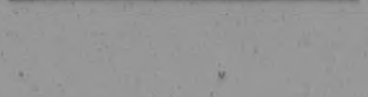
**March 22-26** - Spring Break

## Fourth grade class completes Alabama history projects

by Alex Allen

These are just a few pictures of projects done by Mrs. Dye's fourth grade class.

The class recently studied the settlement of Alabama in Alabama History. They talked about the pioneers and have built model log cabins like what would have been constructed on the frontier.



## High school student meets Harper Lee

by Meredith English

Rebecca English along with many of her classmates had to write an essay on the differences of how life is now, and how it was during the time when *To Kill A Mockingbird* was taking place. Rebecca was the EHS winner.

On Friday, Jan. 23, Rebecca and Mrs. Kathy Pattie, her English teacher, set out to Birmingham to meet Harper Lee, the author of *To Kill A Mockingbird*.

They arrived at the Presidents Mansion at 11 am and mingled with the other guests (winners of different high schools).

After lunch the award ceremony began, and Rebecca received a certificate along with a \$50 check.

After the award ceremony, everyone in the group headed to the Tuscaloosa Library where Harper Lee was autographing various objects and posing for pictures.

Elba High School student Rebecca English receives an autograph from Harper Lee, the author of *To Kill A Mockingbird*.

## Elba Elementary School Menu

Feb. 16 - 20, 2004

BREAKFAST	LUNCH
Monday - Holiday President's Day Tuesday - Breakfast Pizza Cereal, Juice, Milk Wednesday - Biscuit & Jelly, Sausage, Cereal, Juice, Milk Thursday - Pancakes, Syrup, Cereal, Juice, Milk Friday - Cheese Grits, Toast & Jelly, Cereal, Juice, Milk	Monday - Holiday - President's Day Tuesday - Chicken Sandwich, Green Beans, Corn, Fruit Cocktail, Milk Wednesday - Chili w/Beans, Cheese Sandwich, Mixed Vegetables, Crackers, Tangerine Milk Thursday - Hot Dog, Potato Wedges, Peas & Carrots, Sweet Potato Pie, Milk Friday - Taco Salad, Corn on Cob, 1/2 Apple, Milk

## Sr. Beta Club gives students a chance to take on the teachers

The annual student/faculty basketball game is scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 12, at 1:30 p.m.

The Senior Beta club will once again sponsor this fun event, and all proceeds will go to help those with cystic fibrosis. It is \$1 admission.

The coaches and students are always very excited about the game, and this year it is no different. Both sides are already boasting that their team will be the one to win.

The coaches have a winning streak on their side, but they better not be too confident because the students are practicing and getting ready. They have had enough of the yearly game ending with a win for the teachers.

Good luck to both teams, but remember the game is all in fun with the main purpose being to help improve the lives of those with cystic fibrosis.

## EES Student of the Week

by Anna Harrison

The EES student of the week is a sixth grader by the name of Lyndsay Haley.

Lyndsay is the 12-year-old daughter of Cindi and David Haley. She has a 1-year-old sister, Lauren Haley.

In Lyndsay's spare time, she likes to hang out with friends, she definitely likes to shop, swim, and of course, go to the beach. Her favorite color is blue and her favorite subject in school is math.

Congratulations Lyndsay, for being chosen as student of the week!



Lyndsay Haley

# SCHOOLS

## FROM THE COCKPIT

New Brockton School News

Sponsors: Lori Cooney &amp; Tracy Whittaker

## Baseball tryouts held at N.B.H.S.

by Brandon Pynes

The baseball tryouts for the JV and Varsity Boys were held recently.

The JV team will include: Shane Adkinson, Anthony Bryant, Andrew Fuller, Daniel Kelley, Trey Knight, Cullen Martin, Dominique Muhammad, Ryland Scudder, Hayden Smith, and David Stinson.

The varsity includes: Tad Adams, Trent Baxley, Derrick Cook, Drew Donaldson, Ted Eubanks, Layton Griffin, Stephen Hines, Tyler McLean, Tanner Medley, Heath Parker, Garrett Roberts, Justin Thomas, Justin West and Mark Windham.

Cochair Lamb said, "Tryouts went smoothly, and I hope the guys who didn't make the team will work hard to improve and come out again next year."

He also talked about how he hoped the season would go.

He said, "The JV will be young and I hope that they improve as the season progresses, and I'd like for us to win at least half of our games and make the playoffs on varsity."

The first JV game will be Tuesday, Feb. 17, and the Varsity's first game will be Friday, Feb. 20.

We hope that they will come out and support the Gamecocks this season.



SENDING VALENTINE MESSAGES...Brittany Costigan (standing) purchases a Valentine Gram from New Brockton Elementary School SGA officers. The officers pictured include Heather Hendrix, Sawyer Whittaker and Chase Hendrix.

## Romeo knew what he was doing...

by John Sawyer

Here it is, y'all-the day's and don'ts for your first date, and just in time for the most romantic holiday on the calendar: Valentine's Day! Now, some of these I have learned from experience, and have experienced, but you don't have to take my word for it, if you're brave enough (and happen to be on a first date), give them a shot, and see where it gets you. But I bet the only kids you'll be getting that night will be from your mother!

1) DON'T SING ALONG: Okay, unless you are a Grammy nominated vocalist, don't go there, despite your charming manner, a horrible voice can shoot down any hopes for a successful date.

2) CELLULAR DEVICE: It's rude enough for you to be talking on your phone in the company of friends and family. On second thought, turn it off, save your battery in case you'll break down somewhere.

3) SEEMS TO BE QUIET IN HERE: An occasional awkward silence is okay, it's in no way a bad thing, but don't let them get the best of you!

4) NO AUTOBIOGRAPHY: Okay, this is one that I have experienced first hand: a sure-fire way to scare off someone is to tell every aching detail about yourself. If you want this to go any further, let yourself unravel as you go.

5) MOOD MUSIC: Eminem and Metallica are not smart choices for first date mood music. Try and go with something calmer, with somewhat of a beat to it. If you know what this person is interested in, acclimate to their wants.

6) DESTINATION: UNKNOWN: not a good idea to pick up your date and be like, "So, where shall we go?" no smart. I'm all for being spontaneous, but I have a good idea as

## N.B.H.S. Students of the Month



Josh Roberts - Josh is a NBHS 8th grader and is the son of Steve and Kelly Adkinson of New Brockton. He is involved in JV Baseball and Football, B team Basketball, FFA, Jr. Beta, and will play the steward in the upcoming Spring Musical.

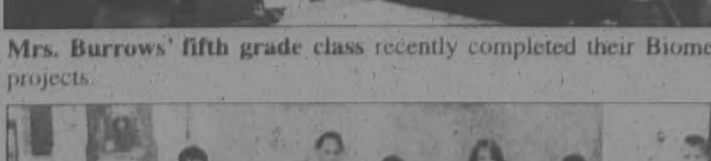
David Lee - David is a Junior at NBHS and is the son of David and Brenda Lee of New Brockton. He is involved in SGA, Sr. Beta Club, Tro-M-FBLA, and the Yearbook Staff. He also plays varsity basketball for the Gamecocks, and participates in the Fine Arts competitions with his church, El Bethel Assembly of God. "He enjoys painting."

Anna Beth Sawyer - Anna Beth is the daughter of Joe and Cathy Sawyer of New Brockton. She is a 7th grader and is involved in FFA, VICA, and was recently inducted into the Jr. Beta Club. She is also a member of the Cheerleading squad, JV Volleyball and Basketball teams, and the Gamecock Pride Marching Band.

## More N.B.E.S. class projects...



Mrs. Burrows' fifth grade class recently completed their Biome projects.



Mrs. Williams' fifth grade class display their Solar System projects.



Mrs. Williams' fifth grade class display their Solar System projects.

## SUPPORT YOUR YOUTH, EDUCATION & LOCAL SCHOOLS

## NB High seniors play final basketball game

by Andrew Hardiman

Saturday night in the New Brockton High School gymnasium, nine seniors said goodbye as they took the court (to play or cheer) for the last time in front of the home fans.

Even more special than the large crowd in attendance was the presence of Mr. Moates, who made it a point to be in attendance and announce each senior. Each one walked slowly to midcourt and presented their mother with a rose. With each senior called, the applause grew until everyone stood in ovation at the end of the ceremony. The seniors then turned and saluted their coaches and sponsors with a rouse.

The 2004 Basketball Senior Class of New Brockton went out with a bang as both the Girls and Boys Varsity teams scored a victory. The win tasted even sweeter with it being over county rival Kinston. Adrenaline was pumping and the teams showed how much they wanted to win it for their team.

Here are some seniors' comments on their last game in the home uniform.

Channon Stuckey, Guard - It was awful. The win was great but realizing that it would be my last home game had an effect on me that was impossible to explain.

Rishawn Foster, Guard - It was sad, but I didn't think of it until coach reminded us before the game. Until someone proves me wrong, I still KNOW we can win the area and bring another one back to the COCKPIT. It was one of the best feelings I've ever had after a victory. It was pay-back from last year and Jan. 8.

Brandon Owens, Forward - I felt like I had been injured in a championship game, against a team I hated with passion.

Edwin Fox, Forward - I went through it at the end of football and I pretty much had the same feeling. I'll definitely miss it. It's a real wake-up call that the end of my high school days are near!

Donnell Foster, Forward - Well, I knew that was it for me! I was hoping I would be able to play even though I'm hurt. To all the coaches and staff, thanks for the support!

Ashley Stuckey, Cheerleader - Even though it was my last game, I have enjoyed the past four years being on the varsity squad. Yes, it was sad to know my sports days are over, but it has been an experience. Even though the days are gone, I will always carry on the Gamecock Pride tradition!



These seniors recently said goodbye to the basketball court with a special ceremony.

Megan Holloway, Forward - I felt sad because it was my last game. It was exciting because I got to start, but knowing it would be the last one was hard for me. It was even harder knowing I could have been playing long before my senior year.

Amanda Estrada, Guard - It didn't feel any different until the end of the game. Then I realized that this was it. It was the worst feeling. I know I won't ever get to play like this again and what makes it even worse is I only discovered basketball this year.

Jamie Manley, Cheerleader - Not only did I feel sad but it was weird because I came to this school not even thinking about becoming a cheerleader. It was the best experience when I walked out on my parents. Giving my mom the carnation was when it hit me.

Ashley Stuckey, Cheerleader - Even though it was my last game, I have enjoyed the past four years being on the varsity squad. Yes, it was sad to know my sports days are over, but it has been an experience. Even though the days are gone, I will always carry on the Gamecock Pride tradition!

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# SPORTS

## Views from.... The Pressbox

By Ricky Mularz, Sports Editor

Now that Melanie has turned fifteen I have been informed that it will be my job to teach her how to drive. While I will admit that my nerves are much better than Mom's and I am more than willing to take her on some long afternoon rides in the country, I am a little older than I was back when our oldest daughter first got behind the wheel and I am not really all that sure just how patient I will be. The one thing I do remember from helping her big sister learn how to drive is that after she cranks the car the radio gets turned off!

### FOR WHAT IT IS WORTH....

\*\*\* The Elba Tigers dropped their regular season finale to the Enterprise Wildcats last week and will now head into the area tournament with a 14-10 record. While the record is not as good as many had hoped, the Tigers are guaranteed of posting their first winning season in three years and this year's team has started what should be a long run of winning seasons here in Tigertown. The loss to Enterprise marked the third time this season Elba fell to its neighbors from across the county, but at least this time the Tigers kept the game close and for the first time this season they actually gave the 6A Cats a battle for all four quarters. The Tigers will have a hard time ahead this week against Straughn and will have to play their best basketball of the season and if they can save the best for last, they could still have a few surprises up their sleeves.

\*\*\* The Elba Lady Tigers will carry an 11-10 record into this week's area tournament and will be hoping that the third time will be the charm when they tip off tournament action against the Straughn Tigers. Elba has lost to Straughn twice this season in tight contests, and the last time the two area rivals met the Lady Tigers jumped out to a big lead and appeared headed for a win, only to falter down the stretch. The Elba girls need a win to advance to sub-region play, and while it won't be easy, there is no doubt the Lady Tigers have that as one of their goals and will be looking to pull off an upset in opening round action.

\*\*\* The best chance any of the county teams have of making it out of the area appears to rest with the Kinston Bulldogs. The Bulldogs ruled from an early 2-8 record to win their area and have been many of the hottest teams in South Alabama over the past few weeks. With the area tournament being held in their own gym, the Bulldogs have to be considered heavy favorites to add the tournament title to their list of accomplishments and advance to sub-region play. Nothing is ever a sure thing, but the Bulldogs are on a roll and could go a long way.

\*\*\* The recruiting wars are over and it looks like Alabama had one of its best years in some time as the Crimson Tide was ranked 19th in the nation after signing many of the top players in the South. The Tide picked up highly-rated players at almost every position, but seemed to be most successful at wide receiver, where Bama signed a big group of tall and speedy receivers. It will be at least two years before the class can be judged on the field, however, it does look like Coach Mike Shula may have finally won a battle, even if it was of the field.

\*\*\* Auburn's Coach Tommy Tuberville surprised no one last week when he demoted his offensive coordinator and announced plans to have a new man on board for next season. The Tigers never figured out a good way to make good use of their offensive talent last season and floundered badly in all of their losses, and even a late season surge and a bowl win wasn't enough to save Hugh Nell's job. I am not an Auburn fan, but I do agree that a change was needed and this time Tuberville needs to hire the right man for the job or it may be the head coaching job that becomes open.

\*\*\* In closing, high school baseball and softball teams all across the state are hard at work getting ready for the upcoming season and here in Elba both the varsity and junior varsity teams in both sports are getting ready to open the season.

## Wanted - Manager for Coffee County Fishing Lake

Duties include permit sales, grounds maintenance, and management of lake. Manager must live at the lake in State-approved housing. Investment required. Application and information are available from: Alabama Division of Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries, 64 N. Union Street, Montgomery, AL 36130, or call (334) 242-3471.

PLEASE REPLY BY MARCH 3RD, 2004

## Tigers rally to post big 55-49 win over Luverne

The Elba Tigers pulled ahead early and held on late last Monday night to knock off the Luverne Tigers 55-49, in Elba. The Tigers rode the early hot hand of Quinton Gavin to jump out to a 19-14 first quarter advantage, but saw the pace of the game slow down in the second quarter and watched as Luverne pulled within 28-27 by the end of the half. LaRay Williams scored five points in the third quarter as Elba upped its lead to 37-35, while Marchello Reed took charge inside in the final stanza and poured in ten fourth quarter points as the Tigers regained command and pulled away to claim the 55-49 win.

Marchello Reed and Quinton Gavin both scored 14 points to lead Elba, while LaRay Williams added 10. Fred Hawkins, Pat Parks and Macklin Burnett all scored 13 points to lead Luverne.

E 19 9 9 18 - 55  
L 14 13 8 14 - 49

Elba (55): Gullety 4, Williams

Third try no charm

## Tigers fall to Enterprise 62-51 in cross-county showdown

The Elba Tigers traveled across the county last Tuesday night for a showdown with the Enterprise Wildcats and for the third time this season found the Wildcats to be too tough to handle as the Tigers dropped a 62-51 decision, in Enterprise.

The Tigers came out ready to play against their cross-county rivals and held the lead for much of the opening stanza as Quinton Gavin scored the Wildcats for 10 first quarter points. Enterprise managed to regain the lead late in the stanza and carried a slim 18-15 advantage into the second quarter, but Elba wasn't about to let the Wildcats take command and used a five-point quarter from Matthew Curran to cut the Wildcats' lead to 28-26 by the end of the half.

Enterprise used a sticky man-to-man defense to slow down the Tigers in the third quarter and the Wildcats turned Tiger turnovers into easy baskets as Enterprise outscored Elba 22-10 in the stanza to take a big 50-36 lead. Elba settled down in the final stanza and tried to rally behind the long range shooting of Duke Carr, but it was too little, too late as the Tigers lost to Enterprise for the third time this season, this time by the score of 62-51.

Quinton Gavin scored 18 points and Marchello Reed added 11 to lead Elba, while T.J. Wilson scored 13 points to lead

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### In youth basketball action

## Wizards coast past Hornets and Spurs

The action in the Elba Jr.NBA/Jr. WNBA Basketball League has been fast and furious in recent weeks with all the teams pouring in the points.

Following are recent highlights:

\*\*\* Sting 18 Storm 13 - The

Sting pulled ahead in the second quarter and held on late to down the Storm 18-13, in Girls action. Scoring for the Sting were Jessica Whitfield 12, Jacquetta Whitfield 2, Realty Singletary 2 and Meagan Concannon 2. Scoring for the Storm were Kim Perdue 7, Kayla Purvis 4 and Nicole Calburn 2.

\*\*\* Hawks 26 Grizzlies 25 - The Hawks outscored the Grizzlies 11-3 in the fourth quarter to rally and claim a wild 26-25 win, in Boys 12 and Under action. Scoring for the Hawks were Keenan Phillips 13, Chance Goosby 10, Sandarius Reed 5, Nick McLaughlin 2 and Jason Allen 1. Scoring for the Grizzlies were Hunter Cauley 12, Devon Mitchell 6, Shambrey Pruitt 5 and Justin Griswold 2.

\*\*\* Wizards 39 Hornets 2 - The Wizards led all the way to down the Hornets 39-2, in Boys

10,

Gavin 14,

Curran 8,

Reed

14,

Rogers 5.

Luverne (49): McCreary 2,

Hawkins 13,

Burnett 13,

Parks

13,

Franklin 5.

### (JV GAME)

The Elba Tiger JV used a big second quarter to grab the lead and never looked back to down Luverne 44-28, last Monday night in Elba. Elba got off to a slow start and trailed 13-9 after one quarter, but the Tigers outscored Luverne 13-4 in the second stanza to grab a 22-17 halftime advantage and then went on a 12-2 tear in the final stanza to pull away and post the big 44-28 win.

Jimmy Morris scored 15 points and Robinson added 10 to lead Elba, while Rutledge scored 11 points to lead Luverne.

Elba (44): Hill 7, Robinson 10, Morris 15, Tillis 8, Abbott 2, Frazier 2.

Luverne (28): Sexton 2,

Rutledge 11, Jones 5, Matthews

8, Harris 2.



Elba Tiger Quinton Gavin (5) looks to pass in recent action against Enterprise. The Tigers will carry a 14-10 record into this week's area tournament clash against Straughn.

(Photo by John Wallace - Andalusia Star/News)

## Elba Lady Tigers win one, lose one as record moves to 11-10

The Elba Lady Tigers hit the court twice last week and claimed one win and one loss to see their record for the season move to 11-10.

Following are highlights of both games:

Elba 51  
LUVERNE 46

The Elba Lady Tigers hosted Luverne last Monday night and had to battle for all four quarters before pulling out a hard fought 51-46 win.

Luverne came out ready to play and surprised Elba by jumping out to a 12-9 lead after one quarter of play. However, the Lady Tigers began to take command in the second quarter and rode the hot hand of LaFondra Thigpen to move ahead 22-18 by the end of the half. LaFondra Thigpen and Tunisia Thigpen combined to score 10 points in the third quarter as Elba extended its lead to 35-27, and the Lady Tigers turned back a late Luverne charge to hold on and claim the 51-46 win.

Ayonna Proctor scored 15 points to lead Elba, while LaFondra Thigpen and Tunisia Thigpen both added 13 points. Dixon led Luverne with 16 points.

E 9 13 13 16 - 51  
L 12 6 9 19 - 46

Elba (51): Proctor 15, L. Thigpen 13, Reynolds 1,

Waddail 6, T. Thigpen 13, Tyson 3.

Luverne (46): McMillan 2, Barber 2, Franklin 12, Dixon 16, Henry 14.

ENTERPRISE 64  
ELBA 32

The Elba Lady Tigers fell behind early and never recovered last Tuesday night in a 64-32 loss to the Enterprise Lady Wildcats, in Enterprise.

The Lady Tigers had a hard time slowing down the Lady Wildcats in the opening stanza and trailed 16-8 after one quarter, but did begin to settle down in the second quarter and used the inside scoring of Ashleigh Waddail to slow down Enterprise. The Lady Wildcats picked back up the pace in the third quarter, however, and never looked back as the Lady Tigers watched as Enterprise pulled away to post the big win.

Ayonna Proctor scored 10 points to lead Elba, while Jessica Jones led Enterprise with 13 points.

E 16 12 19 17 - 64  
L 8 8 9 7 - 32

E'prise (64): Jones 13, Hunter 4, Jennings 12, Hilton 5, Thomas 2, Morrison 11, Lane 6, Barkley 4.

Elba (32): Proctor 10, L. Thigpen 8, Reynolds 2, Waddail 6, T. Thigpen 6.

SCHEDULE

Thursday, Feb. 12

5:30 - Lakers vs. Clippers

6:30 - Fever vs. Sting

Saturday, Feb. 14

9:00 - Sting vs. Storm

10:00 - Hawks vs. Grizzlies

11:00 - Wizards vs. Hornets

12:00 - Fever vs. Comets

Monday, Feb. 16

5:30 - Rockets vs. Hawks

6:30 - Spurs vs. Hornets

Tuesday, Feb. 17

5:30 - Spurs vs. Wizards

6:30 - Sting vs. Storm

\*\*\* Lakers 19 Clippers 15 -

# SPORTS

## Teams looking to advance to sub-region

## Area teams begin long tournament trail

### CLASS 3A, AREA 2

The Class 3A, Area 2 Basketball Tournament for both boys and girls will be held this week at the Northview High School gym, in Dothan. The tournament will tip off on Thursday night, Feb. 12, at 6:00 when the Elba Lady Tigers tangle with the Straughn Lady Tigers, while at 7:30 the boys will hit the court when the Elba Tigers meet the Straughn Tigers. The girls

finals are set for Saturday, Feb. 14, at 6:00, to be followed by the boys finals at 7:30.

CLASS 1A, AREA 2  
The Class 1A, Area 2 Basketball Tournament for both boys and girls will take place this week at J.F. Shields High School, in Beatrice. The semifinals in the girls tournament will take place on Thursday, Feb. 12, with Pleasant Home meeting Florala at 4:00, and J.F.

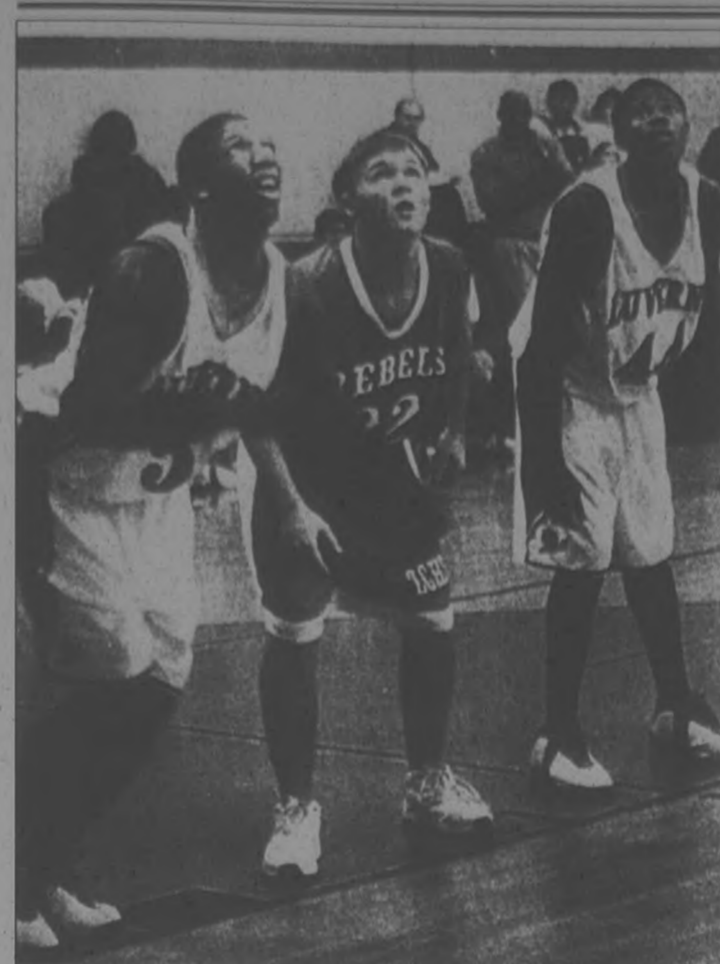
Shields taking on the Brantley-McKenzie winner at 7:00. The boys semifinals will also take place on Thursday night, with Brantley meeting Florala at 5:30 and J.F. Shields taking on the Pleasant Home-McKenzie winner at 8:30. The girls finals are set for Saturday, Feb. 14, at 6:00, to be followed by the championship game in the boys tournament at 7:30.

CLASS 1A, AREA 3  
The Class 1A, Area 3, Girls

Basketball Tournament is being held in Arton, with the finals set for Friday, Feb. 13 at 6:00.

The Class 1A, Area 3 Boys

Tournament is taking place in Kinston. The semifinal round will be held on Thursday, Feb. 12, with Cottonwood meeting Houston County at 6:00, to be followed by Kinston tangling with Arton at 7:30. The finals will be held on Saturday, Feb. 14, at 6:00.



Zion Chapel's Abe Childs (22) scored 26 points Saturday in the Rebels' 61-59 loss to Arton in the opening round of the Class 1A, Area 3 basketball tournament, in Kinston.

### Upset by Arton 61-59

## Rebels make unexpected early exit in opening round of 1A, Area 3 tournament

The Zion Chapel Rebels saw their season come to an unexpected end Saturday afternoon in the opening round of the Class 1A, Area 3 Basketball Tournament as the Arton Purple Cats rallied late to upset the Rebels 61-59, in Kinston.

Both teams had a problem finding their way to the basket early in the opening stanza as Arton owned a 2-1 lead with 3:29 remaining in the first quarter. However, the Rebels' Austin Smith drained a long three-pointer with 3:13 left to put Zion Chapel on top 4-2, and the three-pointer seemed to pump life into the Rebel attack as Zion Chapel went on a 9-0 run over the next two minutes to grab a 13-2 lead with 1:10 still left in the quarter.

Zion Chapel's lead stood at 15-4 early in the second quarter after a pair of free-throws by Abe Childs, but this time it was Arton's turn to stage a rally as the Purple Cats went on a 10-0 run to pull within 15-14 with 5:40 remaining in the stanza. The Purple Cats pulled even at 16-16 with 5:06 left on the clock. However, the Rebels' Abe Childs nailed a three-pointer to put Zion Chapel back on top 19-16, and when Childs added another three-pointer with 1:49 remaining the Rebels' lead was up to 26-19.

A basket by Abe Childs early in the third quarter gave the Rebels a 28-21 lead and it appeared that Zion Chapel was back in command, but the Purple Cats had other ideas and rallied once again to pull within 32-30 with 3:20 remaining in the quarter. Childs scored five points during a 29-second span to help the Rebels move ahead 37-30 late in the stanza, however, Zion Chapel simply could not put the pesky Purple Cats away and needed a last-second bucket by Austin Smith to head into the fourth quarter with a slim 43-40 advantage.

Baskets by Josh Smith and Abe Childs helped Zion Chapel move on top 47-40 with 6:02 left in the game, and when Josh Smith scored on a driving lay-up with 5:21 left on the clock the Rebels were still in command with a 49-42 lead. Arton went on a 7-2 run to cut the Zion Chapel lead to 51-49 with 3:19 remaining, and the Purple Cats then outscored the Rebels 10-2 over the next two minutes to open up a 59-53 lead with 1:14 left in the game. Abe Childs converted a three-point play with 1:05 left and Josh Smith hit three straight free-throws with :07 remaining as Zion Chapel rallied to pull within 61-59, but that was as close as the Rebels could get as their season came to an end with the 61-59 loss to Arton.

Abe Childs scored 26 points to lead Zion Chapel, while Josh Smith added 16 and Austin Smith scored 14. Marcus Ward led Arton with 15 points.

Arton (61): Vanzandt 7, Adams 3, Terry 8, Shepard 5, Reeves 9, Ward 15, Word 14.

Z.C. (59): Taylor 3, A. Smith 14, Childs 26, J. Smith 16.

## Kinston's Coach Janie Wiggins and Mandi Loupe chosen for South All-Star volleyball squad

Teams and coaches for the North-South volleyball teams have been announced for the eighth annual Alabama All-Stars Sports Week July 12-17 in Montgomery, according to the Alabama High School Athletic Directors and Coaches Association (AHSADCA).

Play begins at 2 p.m. Thursday (July 15) in the best-of-five series at Montgomery Academy. The squad is composed of juniors and seniors.

Sports Week, which also includes in-state all-star games in girls and boys basketball, baseball, football, fast pitch softball and soccer, will feature clinic and special sessions for coaches, athletic directors, cheerleader coaches and officials. A product exposition and other related activities are scheduled throughout the week.

The AHSADCA operates under the auspices of the Alabama High School Athletic Association. Membership includes coaches of all AHSAA sports as well as administrators of member schools.

Coaches for the North will be

Tanya Wigley of Grissom and Pam Wilkins of Addison. Members of the South staff are Jeffery Brett of Gulf Shores and Janie Wiggins of Kinston.

Players named to the North squad are Anna Kisor of Cherokee County, Rachel Martin of Muscle Shoals, Tara Dillon and Kendall Nichols of Hoover, Kelly Ingram of Gardendale, Katie Ball of Southside-Gadsden, Jamie Houston and Shannon Polkowski of Huntsville, Sarah Boehme and Laura Demaionibus of Grissom, Jessica Cahill of Guntersville, and Allison Nail of Good Hope.

South players are Sara Sears of Bayside Academy, Pamela Cartagena of Thompson, Casey Dent of Pelham, Monika Tortorici of Oak Mountain, Catherine Ball of St. Paul's, Lindsay Taylor of Murphy, Jodi Carter of McGill-Toolen, Katie Smith and Elizabeth Richards of St. James, Melissa Plash of Gulf Shores, Mandi Loupe of Kinston, and Kelly Shering of Fairhope.

## Spotlight on the OUTDOORS



Bo Collins, age 8, killed this six-point buck while hunting with his Dad on Jan. 30. It was his second buck of the season. He is the son of Sean and Kim Collins, of Mixon's Crossroads.



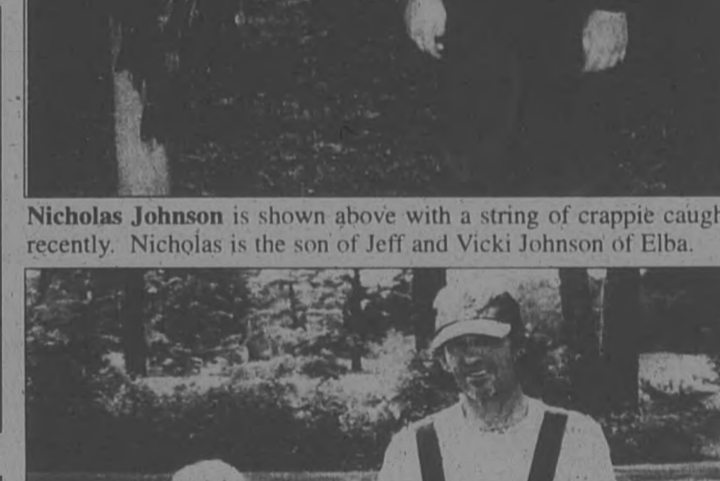
Cheyenne Nelson bagged her second buck of the season on Jan. 28.



Jarred Lott, of Elba, killed this buck while on a recent hunting trip with his Dad. He is the son of Carl and Renee Lott, of Jack.



Nicholas Johnson is shown above with a string of crappie caught recently. Nicholas is the son of left and Vicki Johnson of Elba.



LaDon Morris killed this turkey during the 2003 season. The gobler weighed 3 lbs. and sported an 11 1/2 inch beard. Also pictured is Ronnie Powell.

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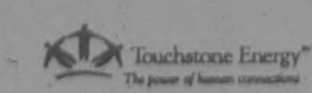
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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## BOE

(Continued from Page One)

took it to the school, but I have not had one Black student tell me they have been informed about them."

Finally, she said it also seems to be a trend within the Coffee County School System to encourage African American students to take standard classes, but Thursday evening, she encouraged the board members to personally go to the schools and encourage the students, especially the African American students, to take advanced classes.

"Coffee County Board of Education, you are not ready to come out from under student status," Haynes concluded. "You've got a long way to go."

Board chairman Charles Walker responded to Haynes' remarks by saying safety is a

concern of the Coffee County Board of Education and the school system does have policies and procedures in place.

"This board will not tolerate racism or discrimination of any kind," he said. "When it becomes evident, the school administration addresses it."

Walker went on to say the board wants all students to succeed in society.

Larry Reeves addressed the board regarding field trips.

He said he understands that after Amendment One was voted down superintendent Dr. Linda Ingram had some tough decisions to make regarding funding.

He also agreed there are better ways for funds other than field trips.

However, Reeves said field

trips can often times have a very positive impact on students.

Therefore, he asked the board to consider changing its policy on field trips so that if a teacher feels it is a worthwhile cause and parents are willing to pick up 100 percent of the cost, the students will be allowed to take field trips.

Standing firm behind his request Reeves said, "If there is a child in any school that the parents can't afford the cost of a day trip, I'll bring her a check."

Three S.A.F.E. (Supporting Alternative For Education) School personnel members were recognized by the board for their efforts.

Becky Hardman, 504 coordinator for the school system, said she is extremely pleased with the accomplishments of the S.A.F.E. School since its inception in Jan. 2002.

She said that all 96 students have enrolled in S.A.F.E. school to complete a term. Thus far, 109

semester credits have been earned by students with 23 seniors, including seven currently enrolled being able to graduate on time thanks to opportunities provided by S.A.F.E. School.

However, she said the program certainly would not have been successful without the dedication of personnel members including

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## CCC

(Continued from Page One)

Applications for the program are currently available at county senior citizens centers and the Coffee County Family Services Center. For more information, call Crowley or Turner at 393-8538.

Commissioner chairman Robert Stephens said news reports indicate the state is looking at combining county veterans affairs offices with other state offices.

He said Coffee County has a good veterans office and director, and he does not believe the local veterans' would benefit from the office being combined with other offices.

Stephens said the county currently furnishes an office free of charge and pays for the utilities and telephone service.

Therefore, he asked for and received the approval of a motion allowing the commission to send a letter to Rep. Terry Spicer, Son, Jimmy Holley and Gov. Bob Riley requesting the Coffee County Veterans Affairs office not be combined with any other state agency office.

In other business, the commission

\* Voted to move forward with the project of displaying pictures of former commissioners in the community room of the county complex. Stephens said the county already has accumulated several pictures and will accept others at no charge to the county.

\* Approved a motion to send out bid requests for the lawn care of the Elba and Enterprise courthouse facilities.

\* Approved a motion at the request of the Coffee County Board of Education for the county to assist in repairing an erosion problem at the Zion Chapel hall which needs to be addressed immediately. The board of education will reimburse the county for the cost of repair.

\* Approved a motion to apply to the Choctawhatchee, Pea and Yellow Rivers Watershed Managers for assistance in funds to help with the erosion problem at Zion Chapel.

\* Approved a motion to allow Sheriff Ben Moates to apply for a 5050 grant to replace bullet proof vests.

The commission concluded by recessing its meeting until Tuesday, Feb. 10, at 4:30 p.m.

Whitworth also told the council he would be attending a Chief's Conference in Montgomery three days this week, but would be back in Elba each night.

Russ English, representing National Security Insurance Co., requested the council sign a necessary letter to the U.S. Army allowing the company to move forward with securing a 105 howitzer to be added to the display in Veterans Memorial Park. The council quickly agreed to the request.

Grimes told council members that the State of Alabama had only sent \$400,000 of a promised \$1.2 million for the new Toledo Molding and Die manufacturing project. He added that the contractor is nearing completion of the building and would be expecting his money. The mayor asked the council to approve interim financing until the state sent the balance of the commitment. He added that state officials had agreed to this arrangement as had a local bank. The council approved the request.

Monthly bills, totaling \$95,327.24 were approved for payment. This included a \$13,150.37 transfer to the local schools, \$25,246 for workers compensation insurance, \$14,437.33 for garbage pick up, \$8,445.70 to Southeast Insurance and \$3,155.63 for gas and oil.

The council also approved buying a variety of 52 different recreation equipment items from the lowest of five bidders. These purchases will be made through out the fiscal year, as needed.

Grimes announced there will be a public meeting on February 19th to discuss plans for downtown revitalization. It will be at 7 p.m. and will be held in the Elba High School auditorium.

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## Motor vehicle crashes the No. 1 killer of children in Alabama

Motor vehicle crashes are the No. 1 killer of children in Alabama. During National Child Passenger Safety Week, the Alabama Department of Public Health wants parents to focus on protecting their children on Alabama's highways by securing them in the proper seats every time, every trip, every day.

According to 2003 observational surveys, child restraint use was 87 percent in the state, however studies show that four out of five seats are improperly installed.

"Although Alabamians are using child safety seats, more than half of the children that die in Alabama die as a result of traffic crashes," said State Health Officer Dr. Donald Williamson. "It's important that parents not only use child safety seats, but that they make sure that they are correctly installed."

Placing children in age-appropriate restraints that are correctly installed can reduce serious injury and death by 71 percent.

"To correctly protect their children, parents should restrain them based on their age and weight. And all children in all forms of restraint should be in the back seat," said Nancy Wright, Director of the Injury Education Branch at the Alabama Department of Public Health.

FOUR STEPS FOR CHILD RESTRAINT:  
\* Rear-facing infant seats - birth to at least age 1 and less than 20 pounds  
\* Forward-facing child safety seats - age 1 to about age 4 and 20 to 40 pounds  
\* Booster seats - about ages 4 to 8 and under 4-feet-9-inches tall and 40 to 80 pounds  
\* Lap and shoulder belts - at least age 8 or over 4-feet-9-inches tall and the child is able to sit with his back firmly against the seat, knees bent over the seat and feet touching the floor

Currently, there are 19 permanent inspection sites statewide with certified child passenger safety specialists and instructors to assist parents in the correct installation of car seats. Funding from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs supports these efforts.

For more information on child passenger safety and to find out the best safety restraint use according to a child's size and age call 1-800-504-9768.

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## Free Redbud trees available from Arbor Day Foundation

Ten free American redbud trees will be given to each person who joins The National Arbor Day Foundation during February 2004.

The trees will be shipped postpaid at the right time for planting between March 1 and May 31.

To become a member of the Foundation and receive the free trees, send a \$10 contribution to TEN FREE REDBUD TREES, National Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Avenue, Nebraska City, NE 68410, by February 29, 2004.

Spicer reports accountability is foremost on minds of most House members this year

With the first week of the 2004 regular session coming to a close, members of the Alabama House of Representatives set the tone for the session by passing several accountability bills out of House Committees on their first day of meetings earlier this week.

Among others, bill relating to PAC-to-PAC transfers and political advertising passed out of the Constitution and Elections Committee.

House Bill 55, sponsored by Rep. Jeff McLaughlin, D-Guntersville, will prohibit transfers between certain political committees.

"Voters should know where money is coming from," stated Rep. Terry Spicer, D-Elba. "This bill will help eliminate what could be considered laundering of contributions."

In addition, House Bill 53, sponsored by Rep. Randy Hinshaw, D-Meridianville, will require the public disclosure of special interest contributions to issue advertising campaigns, for and against referendums and other ballot initiatives.

Further more, House Bill 52, sponsored by Rep. Richard Lindsey, D-Centre, will require that the compensation received by the State Superintendent of Education be capped and not exceed the national average.

House Bill 48, sponsored by Majority Leader Ken Ginn, D-Carbon Hill, will require that a no-bid contract be submitted to the secretary of state and posted on a website for public view when contracts are not bid by state agencies.

"Accountability means openness and knowing where your tax dollars are being spent," said Rep. Spicer. "This bill will put the clock on spending government spending and make it more transparent."

Rep. Terry Spicer

Enterprise-Ozark Community College's Enterprise Campus recently hosted a group of seniors from New Brockton High School. The students were introduced to campus life, admissions and registration procedures, scheduling courses, financial aid, student organizations, and transfer opportunities. The visit included a campus tour.



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"I thank my God every time I remember you." Philippians 1:3

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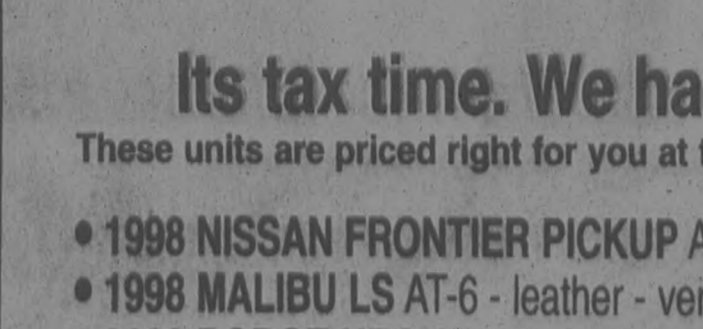
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# The Elba Clipper

Volume 107, Number 36

50 Cents

Elba, Alabama

Thursday, February 19, 2004

1 Section, 12 Pages

## County Commission hears ElderCare Initiative proposal

by Linda Hodge, Editor

On Tuesday, Feb. 10, the Coffee County Commission continued its recessed meeting from Monday, Feb. 9, to hear a presentation regarding The ElderCare Initiative.

Making the presentation for the Southern Alabama Regional Council On Aging (SARCOA) was Robert Crowder, and he found many Coffee County seniors interested in the initiative as nearly 100 people filled the community room.

Crowder said the initiative was created to mainly help those most frail in the elderly community. At present date, he said Coffee County alone has 955 people age 85 or older. This population increased 50.9 percent from 1990 to the year 2000.

According to Crowder, it is estimated the number of seniors will more than double by the year 2030.

"The demand for services will put a burden on everybody," he said.

Coffee County's senior population also includes 8,826 people age 60+ and 3,059 people age 75+.

"With the ElderCare Initiative, we can provide the needed services to the thousands in our area who need them," said Crowder. "Our priority will be to serve the frail elderly and their caregivers. However, everyone will benefit

from knowing these services are available to benefit them when they or their loved one needs them."

All in all, he said the initiative will strive to help first the frail elderly and caregivers but also active seniors, home care and care management for frail seniors, senior centers, meal expansions and other elder services.

Upon the SARCOA board's approval of The ElderCare Initiative, Crowder said his job was to go to the counties his office serves and ask for a bill referendum for the legislature to approve.

He said the proposal the board asked him to present included an additional ad valorem tax of 3 mils. On a \$100,000 home with homestead exemption, he said this would equate to \$24 annually (7 cents per day or 46 cents per week).

Crowder said this tax could generate approximately \$570,000 annually for Coffee County and allow SARCOA to serve approximately 523 more seniors each year in the county.

Crowder said his office serves seven counties including Coffee, and last year alone received over 24,000 calls or walk-ins for the services it provides.

"When we provide services to someone and don't provide them to others, we're really deciding

Presented by the Elba Chamber of Commerce to discuss Downtown Revitalization Ideas for the City of Elba

## Town Hall Meeting



Presented by the Elba Chamber of Commerce to discuss Downtown Revitalization Ideas for the City of Elba

Thursday, Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> - 7:00 p.m.  
Elba High School Auditorium

All citizens encouraged to attend!!



**JUST THE RIGHT FIT...** Despite a week of dreary weather, the sun shined brightly last Friday morning, Feb. 13, as the City of Elba welcomed the opening of a new children's clothing store, Kids Unlimited. The store, located at 979 Hwy. 203, Elba, offers all sizes for boys and girls in famous brands at low prices. Before opening the doors for business last Friday morning, the Elba Chamber of Commerce helped owner Dinah Coppage celebrate the special occasion with an official ribbon cutting ceremony. Those present for the ribbon cutting included (from left): Kaye Whitworth - executive director of the Elba Chamber of Commerce, Future Little Miss Elba Annley Padgett, Wayne Lawford, Little Miss Elba Reagan Kelley, Sam Cooper, Lyndsay Lawford, Jimmy Harrison, Wanda Medley, Joan Dawkins, Joseph Coppage, Billy Coppage, Dinah Coppage - owner, Stacey Carter, pastor Mike Medley, Elba Mayor James Grimes, Brandy Dean, Doris Matthews, Tonya Jones, Mary McMillan, Miss Elba Anna Anderson, Jerice Davis and Herby McCall.

## Some see doodles...Others see art

by Linda Hodge, Editor

When Coffee County resident Eddie Arnold began creating images with his chainsaw, he never imagined people would call him an artist, but that is exactly what has happened.

"This is just doodling for me," Arnold said. "I don't think it's anything I could make a living at. I just don't think there's a market for it."

At least that's what he thought before someone approached him recently and asked if they could buy a piece of his art. Now, Arnold wonders if there are people out there that would actually buy his "doodles."

Regardless of this debate, one thing is for certain. Arnold demonstrates quite a talent as he takes a tree log and uses his chainsaw to carve the log into an Indian statue. Even more interesting, he's only been working with his new found hobby for a matter of weeks and already has six statues (three completed and three under construction).

"I've got a big long list of things I want to do," he said. "This is just one more thing to mark off that list."

Arnold said the whole process is simply a game of angles and realizing what the wood will and will not allow him to do.

When he begins work on a statue, Arnold said he pretty much has in mind what he wants to do, but it all depends on the tree itself.

"It is what it is," he said. "It's a piece of wood."

Arnold said it almost takes as long to stand the log up and balance it as it does to carve it out, and he said he has found that soft wood is not as rough on his chainsaw.

That's not to say he hasn't made some mistakes, though.

"I've blown some seals on the chainsaw," he said. "It's not really meant for this kind of work."

Arnold said he tried a different chainsaw for the carving projects, but he decided he could work better with his "ole faithful."

After all, he and his chainsaw have spent a lot of time together.

Sometime back, Arnold built his own house using cedar, and he cut the wood with the same chainsaw he uses today for his artistic hobby.

"Me and that saw are intimate," he said.

In carving the Indian statues, Arnold said he starts out big knocking the piece of wood into a block shape. Then, he begins finessing the project.

"You could spend as much time as you want on one," he said. "All I'm looking for is proportions...a silhouette."

Originally, Arnold said he began this hobby wanting to do a cigar Indian, and although he

hasn't created that cigar Indian yet, he has been able to find a unique form for each creation. He even has one Indian he jokingly says was part of the "Battle at Wounded Knee" because it has a cut (rather mis-cut) on the knee.

As he continues to increase his collection, Arnold remains modest in saying he's not an artist. However, he does smile a bit when someone stares in awe at the pieces of wood work.

"It bunnifuzzles me about how it bunnifuzzles people," he said. "I'm just a rough cut guy that's never been afraid to make a mistake. I'm just doodling."

Chainsaw artist Eddie Arnold examines one of his latest pieces of wood work. He uses an abandoned chicken house on his mother's property to carve his tree log creations.

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This Indian warrior greets visitors of the Arnold home, which Eddie also built with the assistance of his chainsaw.

## NB Town Council gives nod for preliminary planning of firing range

by Linda Hodge, Editor

During its regular monthly meeting, the New Brockton Town Council gave its approval Monday, Feb. 9, to begin the planning stages of a new project to build a firing range for the town and county.

Mayor Charles Cole said the firing range will be covered under the town's liability insurance policy, and access to the range will be controlled by the New Brockton Police Department.

The range mostly will be used by New Brockton police officers and deputies with the

Coffee County Sheriff's Department, but it will be available for others to use as well.

New Brockton Police Chief Boyd Hartzog said having a firing range in New Brockton will benefit the town in that officers will not have to go out of town. He said this will keep the officers available to answer calls, and the town will not have to pay officers mileage costs for having to go out of town to another firing range.

Cole suggested all the facts and figures be in place before proceeding with the project.

Hartzog said he already received the plans on how to build a range from the National Rifle Association, and it is his desire to receive step by step approval from the council during the building process.

Council member Ron McMonagle offered a motion to begin the preliminary planning of the project with the understanding the council will continue to approve the project step by step in order to avoid getting caught up in costs.

The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Council members discussed the annual Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for

employees and decided it could not be afforded at this time.

The recommendation not to approve the COLA for employees came from the mayor following a discussion, regarding finances.

Council member Judy Stuckey asked if the council could revisit the idea if town finances improve within the next few months, and the mayor said it could.

With that, Stuckey offered a motion not to approve the COLA for employees at this time but left open the option to

revisit the idea if finances improve.

His motion also passed by a unanimous vote of the council.

Once again, the town's walking trail received attention as council members discussed what to do about the area around the ball fields.

The town's grant writer, Lenwood Herron, could not be at the Monday evening meeting; therefore, council members chose to table the discussion.

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